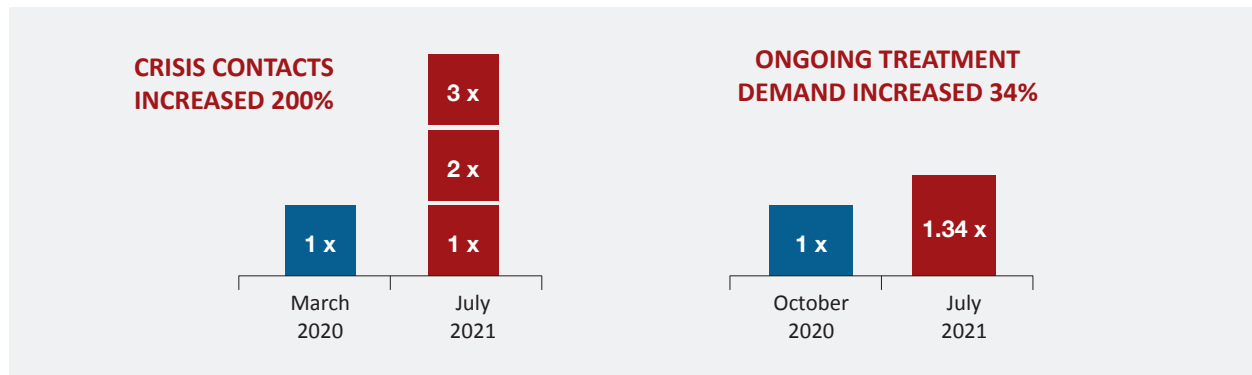


## THE STATE OF THE COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SYSTEM October 2021

### Need For Treatment Is Accelerating While Our Capacity To Serve Is Decreasing



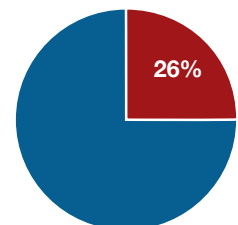
### Chronically Low Medicaid Rates Reduced Our Workforce

#### Low Medicaid Rates = Low Salaries

Low salaries and uncompetitive benefit packages were cited 16 times more frequently as the primary reason employees leave the community behavioral health system.

- Unlike other health systems, Medicaid provides 85-95% of funding for community behavioral health.
- We have a statewide average of 26% vacancy rate for MA level clinical staff.
- Our all-staff vacancy rate has increased 38% in past 5 months.
- Our annual employee turnover rate is 29%.
- We are averaging 5 months to fill open positions.

#### VACANCY RATE MA LEVEL CLINICAL STAFF

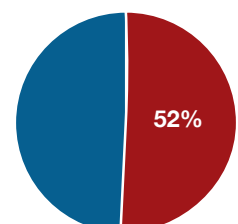


### The Reduced Workforce Decreased Our Capacity To Treat

Workforce shortages force behavioral health agencies to limit services exactly when they should be building capacity to treat more people. Unfortunately, many struggling people aren't getting the help they need, and they are falling deeper into crisis.

- More than half of our responding agencies have closed or limited admissions to outpatient treatment.
- 48% of our agencies instituted wait lists.

#### ACCESS TO CARE LIMITED 52% closed or limited admissions





## Closed Treatment Sites - Statewide

Closure Type	Closure Impact	Location
1. Children's Outpatient Services Clinic	Served 400 youth	South King County
2. Rural Outpatient Clinic	Rural community lost access	North Sound
3. Youth Inpatient E & T	Lost all 10 beds	Kitsap County
4. Closed beds in Residential Treatment Facility	Lost 15 beds	Pierce County
5. CLIP Beds Taken Off-line	Loss of children's beds	Pierce County
6. CLIP Beds Taken Off-line	Loss of children's beds	King County
7. Geriatric Psych Beds Taken Off-line	Lost geriatric specialty beds	Pierce County
8. Outpatient Branch Clinic Closed	11 clinicians and services	Pierce County
9. Day Support Program Closed	Loss of program	King County
10. Day Support Program Closed	Loss of program	Kitsap County
11. Day Support Program Closed	Loss of program	Clallam County
12. Day Support Program Closed	Loss of program	Jefferson County
13. 3 Separate Day Support Programs Closed	Loss of 3 programs	Yakima County
14. Outpatient/Intensive Outpatient Clinic Closed	Loss of local access	North Sound
15. Outpatient Office Closed	Loss of local access	Pierce County

## Current And Future Ramifications

- Inability to staff expansions of services, respond to RFPs, start new programs.
- Inability to staff new 16 bed facilities budgeted for by the state. Behavioral health agencies had to return state capital budget appropriations.
- More crisis services will be needed because fewer people are getting care now.
- Same-day and next-day appointments are disappearing.
- Patients experience multiple changes in their treatment team.
- Staff vacancies constrain the ability to expand partnerships with law enforcement and other community partners.

## For More Information, Contact

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### Supporting Data

The Washington Council for Behavioral Health conducted a survey of member behavioral health agencies (BHA) to collect data on the current system status; results are summarized above. We received 23 completed responses from across the state, representing a mix of large and small, rural and urban providers, single site and multi-region providers. All ten regions of the state are represented.